

FIRST CORINTHIANS
Lesson 80–June 6, 2021

If you're in the resident congregation turn off your electronic devices and put them away. Let this be a place where you aren't distracted by the world.

Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
a Christian Church

Rory Clark
Pastor-Teacher

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...an intimate, local Christian Church with worldwide impact. My name is Pastor Rory Clark. Welcome to this Bible lesson! Who is Jesus Christ? At Barah Ministries we know this truth...that JESUS CHRIST IS GOD.

To all those who say, “Nowhere in the Bible does it say that Jesus Christ is God,” let’s look at one of the many places. The Lord...Jesus...the Christ...the Jewish Messiah...speaks to a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. It is worthy of note that the Jews wanted nothing to do with the Samaritans...and it was not common for Jewish men to speak to women in a public setting, especially if they were strangers. So this woman was quite surprised to be engaged in a very lengthy, quite intimate conversation with Jesus. Jesus told her many things, among them what He said in John, Chapter 4, Verses 25 and 26...

JOHN 4:25

The woman at the well said to Jesus, “I know that Messiah is coming...He who is called the Christ...and when that One comes, He will explain all things to us (about what is to come).”

JOHN 4:26

Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

Yes...Jesus Christ declared Himself to be God...the Lord...God the Son...the Messiah in human form. John, Chapter 1, Verse 14...

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JOHN 1:14

And the Word (ho logos...the Lord...God the Son)...became flesh (Jesus...the Christ...the Jewish Messiah)...and He lived among us...and we saw His glory...glory as of the only begotten One from the source of God the Father...full of grace and full of truth.

At Barah Ministries, we think Jesus is telling the truth about Himself...He is indeed the Sovereign God of the Universe!

Why does Barah Ministries exist? At Barah Ministries, we introduce people to the Lord...and we make a difference by teaching the Word of God verse-by-verse from the Lord's perspective and not from man's perspective. Barah Ministries exists for the benefit of Christians...those who want a deep, intimate, and personal relationship with the Lord through the study of His Word. Why study the Word of God? Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verse 12 says...

HEBREWS 4:12

...the Word of God is alive...the Word of God is powerful...the Word of God is sharp, like a two-edged sword...the Word of God is piercing, even going as far as the division of soul and spirit...of both joints and marrow...and the Word of God is a critic of the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

We study the Word of God because it illuminates the right thoughts and indicts harmful thoughts.

Here's a question for reflection...what do you do when you hear something in a Barah Ministries lesson that you don't agree with? What do you do when you hear something in a Barah Ministries lesson that refutes something you have been taught in the past? What do you do when you hear something in a Barah Ministries lesson that conflicts with your beliefs? I'll tell you exactly what you do...you temporarily forget what the Bible says in Second Peter, Chapter 2, Verses 1 to 3...

SECOND PETER 2:1a

But false prophets also arose among the people...just as there will also be false teachers among you...who will secretly introduce destructive heresies (side-by-side with truth)...

It's easy to forget that we are easily deceived by the pleasant personalities of

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the teacher...so we believe false teachers, many of whom are...

SECOND PETER 2:1b

...even denying the Master who bought them (to earth...rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ, their Creator)...bringing swift (spiritual) destruction upon themselves.

SECOND PETER 2:2

Many will follow their sensuality (their shameful and destructive teachings) and because of false prophets and false teachers, the way of the truth will be maligned (they turn people off to the truth)...

SECOND PETER 2:3a

...and in their greed (a desire to use you for their disruptive ends)...they will exploit you with fabricated words...

What must you do instead? You say, “I hear what you have said Pastor.” Then you ask yourself, “What does the Bible have to say?” We implore you to always compare what you learn, both at Barah Ministries and in the world, with what the Bible says. Acts, Chapter 17, Verses 10 and 11...

ACTS 17:10

The brethren at Thessalonica immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea...and when Paul and Silas arrived in Berea they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

ACTS 17:11

Now these Berean Jewish believers were more noble-minded than those believers in Thessalonica...for they received the Word of God with great eagerness...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things Paul and Silas were saying were so.

Comparing what you learn with what the Bible says is not just an invitation, it's a responsibility for believers in Christ!

God has an enemy...Satan...whom God made ‘the ruler of this world.’ First John, Chapter 5, Verse 19...

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FIRST JOHN 5:19

We believers in Christ know that we are possessions of God the Father... and we also know that the whole world lies in the power of Satan...the evil one.

When you sin...when you make a mistake...Satan wants you to obsess about the sin...he wants you to feel guilt...to feel shame...to feel remorse...to feel embarrassment. Satan focuses your attention on your sins to take your focus off of Christ. In Second Corinthians, Chapter 2, Verse 8, Paul tells us how to handle those who sin...

SECOND CORINTHIANS 2:8

...I urge you to reaffirm your unconditional love for him...

Paul was talking about the man who has sex with his mother-in-law in First Corinthians, Chapter 5. Satan, on the other hand, keeps on accusing us when we make mistakes.

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Choosing Your Teachers Matters, Especially in Your Spiritual Life

LESSON INTRODUCTION

In one of the great songs of all time from one of the great movies of all time, the Scottish singer Lulu Kennedy-Cairns sings to her teacher in *To Sir with Love*...

TO SIR WITH LOVE

Those schoolgirl days
Of telling tails and biting nail are gone
But in my mind...I know they will live on and on...

TO SIR WITH LOVE

But how do you thank someone
Who has taken you from crayons to perfume?
It isn't easy...but I'll try...

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Great teachers are great assets in our lives. The apostle Paul is one of the greatest teachers of all time, and in studying First Corinthians, we have seen him take them from rivalries and divisions to clarity about their faith. In today's lesson we begin our study of the final chapter of First Corinthians, as a great teacher winds up his great teaching to a set of new believers.

SONG INTRODUCTION

Let's hear some music! In John, Chapter 4, Verse 19...the Samaritan woman that I spoke of earlier said to Jesus...

JOHN 4:19

"Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet."

That one of the great understatement of all time! Here's June Murphy to tell us her story in the song COME SEE A MAN.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

COME SEE A MAN

June Murphy

<INSERT SONG LYRICS>

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

COME SEE A MAN

June Murphy

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

We're grateful, Heavenly Father, for the privilege of studying Your absolute truth...the Word of God...

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Father, thank you for caring about every aspect of our lives...thank you for caring about us...thank you for demonstrating Your unconditional love for us by sending us Your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to die for the sins of the whole world, especially the sins of Your believers...and thank you for sending Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all the truth...as a teacher, You are amazing to us for the way You have planned and executed a wonderful and perfect life for each one of us...

...Father help us know You...show us how to think, how to act, how to give, how to parent, how to lead, and how to love as You would...change us from the inside out so that we are a reflection of Your Word and Your will...

...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Choosing Your Teachers Matters, Especially in Your Spiritual Life

We are on the final few lessons of a twenty-month journey that we began on September 29, 2019...the study of Paul's first letter to the Corinthian Church. As you now know, Paul, one of the greatest teachers of all time, founded the church at Corinth around 50 AD as detailed in Acts, Chapter 18, Verses 1 to 11...

ACTS 18:1

After these (latest) things (on his second missionary journey) Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

ACTS 18:2

And Paul found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus (a region that is in modern day eastern Turkey...bordering Iran) ... having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla...because Claudius (the Roman Emperor at the time) had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul came to them...

ACTS 18:3

...and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with Aquila and Pricilla and they were working together, for by trade they were tent-makers.

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ACTS 18:4

And Paul was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks (concerning Christ as the Messiah).

ACTS 18:5

But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself exclusively to the Word (instead of tentmaking), solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ (The Messiah).

ACTS 18:6

But when the Jews resisted and blasphemed (continuing to reject Christ as their Messiah) ... Paul shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

Even though Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, he never forgot nor neglected his Jewish roots.

ACTS 18:7

Then Paul left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue.

ACTS 18:8

Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized (as Christians).

ACTS 18:9

And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid any longer, but keep on preaching and do not be silent...”

ACTS 18:10

“...for I (the Lord) am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you...for I have many people in this city.”

ACTS 18:11

So Paul settled in Corinth for a year and six months, teaching the Word of God among them.

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Paul "trained up" the believers in Corinth over eighteen months, and when he left to go to Ephesus, they got lost. When Paul hears reports that the church is lost, and that they had questions, he follows the advice he gave to his protégé Timothy in Second Timothy, Chapter 4, Verse 2. Paul writes all of his letters to...

SECOND TIMOTHY 4:2

...preach the word...being ready in season and out of season...to reprove...and to rebuke...and to exhort...with great patience and with great instruction.

I'm sure those of you who have been on the entire twenty-month journey into Corinth will agree that Paul has done a masterful job handling some pretty touchy issues among the believers in Corinth...issues we face every day over two thousand years later...issue concerning our sex lives...our social contacts...our forms of worship...our legal dealings...our divisions...and our rivalries. Today, we'll begin study of a section of the final chapter of First Corinthians...Chapter 16. Here's the structure of the last chapter...

FIRST CORINTHIANS, CHAPTER 16

Section 1

Verses 1 to 4
Instructions for the Collection for the Saints

Verses 5 to 9
Paul's Travel Itinerary

FIRST CORINTHIANS, CHAPTER 16

Section 1

Verses 10 and 11
Notice About Timothy

Verse 12
Notice About Apollos

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Now let's begin our study of the first twelve verses...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:1

NOW CONCERNING the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you are to do as well.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:2

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save as he may prosper, so that no collections need to be made when I come.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:3

When I arrive, whomever you approve, I will send them with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:4

...and if it is appropriate for me to go also, they will go with me.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:5

But I will come to you after I go through Macedonia; for I am going through Macedonia...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:6

...and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way wherever I go.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:7

For I do not want to see you now just in passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:8

But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:9

...for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:10

Now if Timothy comes, see that he has no reason to be afraid while among you, for he is doing the Lord's work, as I also am.

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FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:11

So do not look down on him, anyone. But send him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me; for I expect him with the brothers.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:12

NOW CONCERNING our brother Apollos, I strongly encouraged him to come to you with the brothers; and it was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has the opportunity.

When we return from the break, we'll take the offering, and then we'll study this section of the final passage of First Corinthians verse-by-verse.

FIVE MINUTE BREAK

NOBODY

Casting Crowns

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Choosing Your Teachers Matters, Especially in Your Spiritual Life

If it is not said enough times from this pulpit, we really appreciate your generosity in offering time. Thank you! You have made it possible for the work of this church to continue uninterrupted over the last two years during one of the most difficult times in our lifetime. That is no small feat, and one we have not really stopped to acknowledge. Thank you! Here's what King David has to say about generosity in First Chronicles, Chapter 29, Verse 14. David asks...

FIRST CHRONICLES 29:14

“Who am I...and who are my people...that we should be able to offer as generously as You do (O God)? For all things come from You...and we have only given back to you (in the offering) the things that have come from Your hand.”

Thank you! Every contribution you make to Barah Ministries encourages us, especially me, to keep on fighting the good fight of faith! Let's welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall with one of His always inspiring offering messages.

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THE OFFERING

Deacon Denny Goodall

OFFERING VERSE

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people, knowing that it is from the Lord that you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

OFFERING SONG

HAVEN'T SEEN IT YET

Danny Gokey

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Choosing Your Teachers Matters, Especially in Your Spiritual Life

Let's take a look at the things Paul is communicating in First Corinthians, Chapter 16, Verses 1 to 12...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:1

NOW CONCERNING the collection for the saints...just as I directed the churches of Galatia in handling the collection, so you are to handle it that way as well.

In this letter, you'll remember that whenever you see Paul using the term ... "NOW CONCERNING" as he is in two verses in this section... as he is answering the problems he has been asked about by Chloe's people which prompted the drafting of the entire letter to the Corinthians.

As a reminder for them about collections... Verse 2...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:2

On the first day of every week (right after you get paid), each of you is to put aside money and to save up (for giving) as he has been prospered (by God)...so that no collections need to be made when I come.

For most of us Pastors, we wish we didn't have to handle the business end of the church. Most Pastors aren't good at that part of the ministry. Quite often

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ministry funds are mishandled. Paul is a planner, and he is ensuring that this collection for the poor Jewish believers in Jerusalem is handled by the believers at Corinth with the autonomy they deserve as givers...giving voluntarily, not under compulsion. Paul continues...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:3

When I arrive, whomever you have approved (to handle the collection)...I will send them with letters (of introduction) to carry your gift to Jerusalem...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:4

...and if it is appropriate for me to go (to Jerusalem) also, they will go with me.

A funny thing about this collection that we don't think of...Paul couldn't call Brinks to handle the safe transport of the collection money. The money was in cash, not electronic bank transfer, so it had to be transported by people who were vulnerable...people who could be beaten and robbed along the journey. In addition, they couldn't just hop in their cars and drive the money to Jerusalem. Corinth is 850 air miles from Jerusalem. They couldn't fly. Can you imagine how difficult it was to do this simple task in the day? Next...in First Corinthians, Chapter 16, Verse 5, Paul details his upcoming travel plans...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:5

But I will come to you after I pass through Macedonia...for I intend to pass through Macedonia...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:6

...and perhaps I will stay with you for a while or even spend the winter with you... so that you may send me on my way wherever I go (next).

Paul wants to spend some extended time with the Corinthians because he knows it's necessary. Yet quite often, God changed his travel plans. Many in the first-century church considered Paul to be "flighty" because of the frequent change in plans. Perhaps they didn't consider how dangerous it was to travel at the time, even though they knew how dangerous it was. Paul continues...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:7

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For I do not want to see you now just in passing...for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits it.

Thy will be done. There is the key. Quite often God changed Paul's travel plans to keep him alive! First Corinthians, Chapter 16, Verse 8...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:8

But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost (May...the beginning of summer)...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:9

...for a wide door for effective service has opened to me...and there are many adversaries.

Travel by ship was difficult to impossible in the winter, so Paul was waiting for an opportune time to travel. Paul closes this section with a few words about the servants of God...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:10

Now if Timothy comes...maybe he will and maybe he won't...see to it that he has no reason to be afraid while among you...for he is doing the Lord's work just as I am.

Translation? Don't shoot the messenger. Quite often, if people had a problem with Paul, they would take it out on people he sent. Timothy is described throughout the New Testament as a man of delicate sensibilities...he was a man raised by women...so Paul was ensuring that his man was not mistreated.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:11

So do not look down on him (don't mistreat him)...anyone. But send him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me...for I expect him with the brothers.

Paul was expecting them to equip Timothy for travel just as they would Paul. Finally, another request from Chloe's people...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 16:12

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NOW CONCERNING our brother Apollos ...I strongly encouraged him to come to you with the brothers...and it was not at all his desire to come now...but he will come when the opportunity presents itself.

It's hard to know why Apollos wasn't coming now, but you do remember this from the First Corinthians, Chapter 1, Verses 10 to 13...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:10

Now I (Paul) exhort you fellow believers in Christ, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree...and that there be no rivalries among you...instead that you be made complete...in the same mind and in the same purpose.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:11

For I (Paul) have been informed concerning you, my brethren (in the church at Corinth) ... by Chloe's people...that there are rivalries among you.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:12

Now what I (Paul) mean by this is that each one of you is saying, "I belong to Paul" ... and "I belong to Apollos" ... and "I belong to Cephas (Simon Peter)" ... and "I belong to Christ."

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:13

Has Christ been divided (into parts)? Paul was not crucified for your sake, was he? You weren't baptized in the name of Paul, were you?

Both Paul and Apollos probably didn't want to stir up that rivalry component again.

God provides us with great teachers. Are you seeking them out? Or are you learning everything on your own? Since no one does anything on his own, it's important to select teachers who lead you into all the truth. Thanks be to God for the apostle Paul and his excellent work with the first-century Corinthians.

GOD WANTS YOU!

Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life

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The Sovereign God of the Universe, the Lord Jesus Christ, wants a relationship with you! He sends evangelists to you to bring you the good news concerning what He did to save you at the Cross.

Unfortunately, God has an enemy who sends evangelists to you as well. First Peter, Chapter 2, Verses 1 to 3 says...

FIRST PETER 2:1

...false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

FIRST PETER 2:2

Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned...

FIRST PETER 2:3

...and in their greed, they will exploit you with false words...

When a person evangelizes to you, they are guiding you to a gospel message for your consideration. They know they cannot “convert” you, although the pressure you experience from some of them might feel like that’s what they want to do. They are giving you facts to consider. You have to determine if their facts are true or false.

For example, if you’ve ever had Jehovah’s Witnesses come to your door, they are evangelizing to you. If you’ve ever had members of the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-Day Saints come to your door, they are evangelizing to you. Unfortunately, both of those groups are inviting you to share eternity with them in the Lake of Fire, because neither of these groups believe that Jesus Christ is God. They are evangelizing with a false gospel message about a false god. I have family members who are part of one of these religions, and in spite of my best evangelism efforts, my family members don’t want to hear anything that God has to say to them through me.

Many parents are leading their children to a destiny in the Lake of Fire. If you want to assess whether or not you’re a good parent, just ask yourself a

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simple question...are you influencing your children to have a relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Sovereign God of the Universe?

God the Father has a plan to get you to heaven. Jesus. He is the ONLY WAY to get to heaven according to John, Chapter 14, Verse 6...

JOHN 14:6

Jesus said to the doubting apostle, Thomas, "I am the way (to salvation)... and I am the truth (through the gospel message...the Word of God)...and I am the resurrection life...and no one comes to God the Father (in heaven) but through believing in Me."

If a gospel message makes it sound like you have to work to get to heaven, it's a false gospel message. Romans, Chapter 11, Verse 6 says we don't have to work to be saved...

ROMANS 11:6

...if salvation is by grace (a free gift from God) ... and of course it is...it is no longer on the basis of works...otherwise grace (as a free gift) is no longer grace (it is not free).

Romans, Chapter 4, Verse 4 says you CAN'T work for salvation...

ROMANS 4:4

Now to the one who works (for salvation), his wage (for his work) is not credited (to his account) as a favor (from the grace of God)...but (his wage is credited) as what is due for the work.

Unfortunately, your hardest work is not perfect enough to earn you a spot in heaven. What can you do instead of working for your salvation? Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31 says...

ACTS 16:31

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and everyone in your household who also believes."

John, Chapter 3, Verse 36 warns...

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JOHN 3:36

“He who believes in the Son has the resurrection life right at that moment... but he who does not obey the command to believe in the Son will not see the resurrection life...instead the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him.”

John, Chapter 3, Verse 17 highlights Jesus’ mission...

JOHN 3:17

For God the Father did not send God the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) into the world to judge the world...but God the Father sent God the Son into the world that the world might be saved through Him.

Who is this God who saves you? The apostle Paul describes the Lord Jesus Christ...in First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verses 3 and 4...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:3

For I (Paul) delivered to you as of primary importance the gospel message I also received from God...that it was Jesus Christ who died for our sins according to the Old Testament Scriptures...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:4

...and that He was buried...and that He was raised from the dead on the third day...according to the Old Testament Scriptures...

Take the free gift of eternal life right now! There’s no time to waste! God wants you. If you want to go to heaven when you close your eyes in this life, simply believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!

SONG INTRODUCTION

Let’s close with music! Jeremiah, Chapter 32, Verse 17 says...

JEREMIAH 32:17

Ah Lord God! Behold...You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You!

Lord, hear June Murphy tell us in song HOW GREAT YOU ARE!

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MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

HOW GREAT YOU ARE
June Murphy

<INSERT SONG LYRICS>

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

HOW GREAT YOU ARE
June Murphy

CLOSING VERSES

A Doxology of Praise to Our God

Let's close with words of worship for our Almighty God.

PROVERBS 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding...

PROVERBS 3:6

...in all your ways acknowledge the Lord...and He will direct your path straight.

PSALM 46:1

For God is our refuge and our strength...a very present help in times of trouble.

ISAIAH 40:13

Those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength...they will mount up with wings like eagles...they will run and not get tired...they will walk and not become weary.

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Blessed be the name of the Lord!

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

www.barahministries.com